

LUKAS, NACE GUTIERREZ & SACHS

CHARTERED

1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD, SUITE 1500

MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102

703 584 8678 • 703 584 8696 FAX

WWW.FCCLAW.COM

David A. LaFuria
(703) 584-8666
dlafuria@fcclaw.com

August 7, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Friday, August 4, 2006, undersigned counsel, on behalf of the Alliance of Rural CMRS Carriers, met with Commissioner McDowell and Angela Giancarlo to discuss universal service issues.

Within the above-referenced docket, counsel urged prompt action on many pending petitions for ETC status pending at the Commission, including that of Smith Bagley, Inc. on Navajo Reservation lands in Utah, which has been pending for over four years.

Counsel also discussed how wireless ETCs are using high-cost support to construct new facilities in rural areas throughout the country which is bringing critical health and safety benefits to such areas. The Commission's recent experience with Katrina and other natural and man-made disasters highlights the importance of a robust wireless infrastructure in rural areas, which will only happen if the universal service program promotes modern infrastructure development.

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. LaFuria".

David A. LaFuria

cc: Hon. R. McDowell
A. Giancarlo, Esq.